

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: THE MIDDLE EAST: WITH THE BACK TO THE WALL

1. "NOTHING GOES WELL ANYMORE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, AND TENSION IS MOUNTING", WRITES ASSISTANT INTERNATIONAL POLITICS EDITOR MBUYAMBA WA NKONGOLO EDITORIALY IN KINSHASA MORNING DAILY SALONGO JANUARY 24. HE SAYS THE ENTIRE WORLD IS NOW WONDERING WHY THE EGYPTIA N- ISRAELI DIRECTS TALKS WHICH WERE WELCOMED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY SOME AND MISTRUSTFULLY BY OTHERS, HAVE HIT SUCH A LOW.

2. THE EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT AFTER CALLING HOME THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION FROM THE JERUSALEM POLITICAL TALKS, PRESIDENT SADAT HAS REVEALED: " ISRAEL'S SOLE OBJECTIVE IS PERMANENT OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORY AND THE CONCRETIZATION OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S CONCEPT OF GREATER ISRAEL; THE LATTER HAD ONLY TAKEN PART IN THE TALKS TO GAIN TIME AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT EGYPT HAS MUCH RESPECT FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

3. EDITOR MBUYAMBA MAINTAINS THAT THE OTHER REASON FOR THE ISRAELI UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 00797 250854Z

INTRANSIGENCE IS THAT COUNTRY'S MILITARY POWER WHICH HAS ENABLED IT TO IMPLEMENT STUBBORNLY A POLICY OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, IN DEFIANCE OF WORLD OPINION. HE CONTINUES THAT MR. SADAT HAS NOW ASKED WASHINGTON, THE MOST IMPORTANT SUPPLIER OF ARMS TO ISRAEL, TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE SAME MILITARY WEAPONS THAT ISRAEL HAS "IN RODER TO NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH, NOT TO ATTACK THE ENEMY. "BY DOING

THAT", EDITORIAL CLAIMS, "MR. SADAT HAS THE U.S. WITH ITS
BACK TO THE WALL.

4. "WASHINGTON'S REACTION REMAINS TO BE SEEN", SAYS EDITORIAL,
WHILE NOTING THAT SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, WHO HAS JUST
RETURNED HOME FROM A VISIT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, APPEARS
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO
SIDES. "AFTER ALL", HE SAYS, "PRESIDENT SADAT HAS NOT SLAMMED
THE DOOR BEHIND HIM." HE ADDED THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK
ABOUT A FORTH COMING MEETING BETWEEN CARTER, BEGIN AND SADAT IN
WASHINGTON, AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL PERHAPS BE ABLE TO
BRING ISRAEL BACK TO GOOD FEELINGS.

5. IN THE MEANTIME, OBSERVERS ARE NOTICING MR. SADAT'S POLITICAL
SKILLS. HE HAS SHOWN THE ARAB WORLD, WITH EGYPT IN THE FRONT,
AS BEING THE CHAMPION OF PEACE AS OPPOSED TO THE ISRAELI
INTRANSIGENCE. THIS IS TO SAY THAT THE EGYPTIAN LEADER, TO
THE EXTENT THAT HE INTENDS TO DEFEND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND
SELF-DETERMINATION, HAS WOULD UP TO BE NOT A DEFENDER OF A
BILATERAL SETTLEMENT, BUT OF A GLOBAL ONE, THE EDITORIAL
CONCLUDES. END ITEM.

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